

Read On...

Summer 2004

A Publication of the Maricopa County Library District

Your Unexpected Oasis

Check it Out...Check it In! With the SmartCheck System



How does it work?

All of the Library's materials are now coded with radio frequency identification tagging. When an item is placed on the system's belt, the code on its ID tag is "read" by the system and its status is changed from "checked out" to "checked in". The system then determines the type of item and automatically routes it to an appropriate sorting bin-adult, juvenile, media, or exceptions. The exceptions bin is where an item is routed if its code shows that another customer is waiting for it. This initial sorting makes it easier for staff to identify those items and get them out faster to waiting customers.

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To keep pace with the growth and demand, the Library District turned to technology to enhance customer service through self-service.

The Library District has implemented many customer-oriented technologies to enhance customer service and keep pace with the rapid growth it is experiencing...and to keep pace with its evolving role as information provider. The latest is the new SmartCheck automatic book return System. The Library District was one of the first libraries in USA and the only library system in Maricopa County to use this technology. It will now be standard equipment in the District's newest libraries.

What is the SmartCheck automatic book return system?

◆ It is a self-service system library customers use for returning their materials.

How does this technology enhance customer service?

◆ Customers receive a printed receipt documenting what materials were returned with the date and time they were returned.

◆ Materials are back on the shelves faster for the next customer.

◆ Returned items that other customers are waiting for are obtained more quickly.

◆ Speeds up the transfer of materials from one branch library to another.

The SmartCheck system takes over routine tasks that staff used to do by hand—that means more staff are available to directly help customers.

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George L. Campbell Branch Library



The George L. Campbell Branch Library's SelfCheck book return system has the conveyor encased in glass in the library's front windows so that customers can view the process of this new technology. The Northwest Regional Library in Surprise also has the SmartCheck system.

The goal is to get materials back on the shelves as quickly as possible

Other examples of the major technological advances are:

SmartCard.

Customers' Library Cards turn it into "SmartCards" allowing customers to pay for printing and save favorite Web sites, the personalized work sessions means users can work on a library PC as if they were on their own computer. It's a customer-friendly computer reservation and time management system that's easy, convenient, and "staff-free".

SmartCheck Self-check out machines:

Library customers can check out their own materials-even those that are awaiting pick-up on the open request shelves.

The examples listed above illustrate the emphasis on how technology can help librarians do their jobs as librarians by replacing routine tasks. Additionally, librarians can serve customers better because they are available when and where customers need them.

NEW LIBRARY CATALOG SYSTEM

The Library District has installed Polaris®, a new library automation system that allows us to do lots of things smarter and faster at our libraries. It is used for ordering, processing and circulating library materials as well as for providing public access to the Library's Collection through the online catalog.

The new system offers library customers improvements and upgrades such as:

Children's PAC-Library Catalog

The children's version of the library catalog makes searching easy for children by providing colorful icons or pictures for the categories they search most frequently.

Improvements to the Request System:

Receive an email, telephone and postal notification when your material is available. Know where you are in line for outstanding requests by logging into your account.

Access your Account Information:

Lists items checked out, date due, fines and fees, and reading history. Customers may also renew their materials from their account.

Features for Readers and Researchers:

More information about the books including cover art, book reviews, plot summaries, and character lists.

Create bibliographies that can be printed, emailed or saved to a disk.

Customers can save searches that will run automatically on a weekly or monthly basis. They will receive an email notice each time a new item within their search phrase is added to the library collection.



A Library Card...

**small enough to fit into your wallet,
big enough to change your life!**



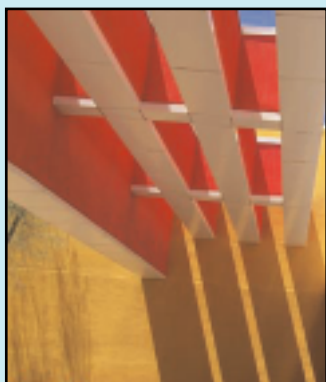
Library District News



El Mirage Branch Library moved into a new building at the end of the year at 14011 N. 1st Avenue in El Mirage.



Sun Lakes Branch Library is moving into a new building this summer at 9330 E. Riggs Road in Sun Lakes.



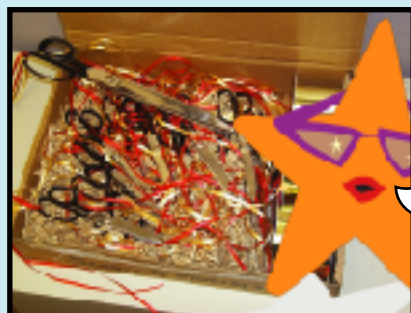
The George L. Campbell Branch Library, 17811 N. 32nd St., Phoenix, underwent extensive remodeling. The public is invited to a Rededication on Saturday, August 14 at 10am.



The Friends of the George L. Campbell Branch Library commissioned an original batik by artist Harriet Peck Taylor for the children's area.



The Library District is adding a brand new library—the North Valley Regional Library. The new library at 40410 N. Gavilan Peak Parkway in Anthem, officially opens on October 9. The public is invited to the opening festivities.



HERE'S A
LITTLE
RIDDLE...WHAT DO
WE HAVE THAT MOST
LIBRARIES
DON'T?

OUR
VERY OWN
RIBBON-CUTTING
KIT!

A LOT of ribbons are cut by the Library District
(to open new libraries)...

...We've averaged about two openings a year
since 1999!!!

We do so many openings that we
created the ribbon-cutting kit so
we're always ready.

Anatomy of a Mystery

Our Online Novel is Read Around the World...



It's a mystery novel that appears exclusively on the District's Web site. Reminiscent of the old-time Saturday morning serials, the novel has a new chapter a month for twelve months-and each chapter ends with a cliffhanger.

And Winning Awards for the Library District

country have confirmed this fact. We are the first public library to commission an original work of fiction from a known children's author and to "publish" the work online. We

Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records Agency under the Library Services and Technology Act, which is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. All Web and printed illustrations were created by the Library District's Graphic Artist Claudia Myers.

The Maricopa County Library District unveiled a new project for young readers-an online novel for kids titled *Mystery Club of Luna Drive* on October 1, 2003. It is an original mystery novel written by award-winning children's author James M. Deem appearing exclusive online through the Library District's Web site, <http://mclb.maricopa.gov>. The book is being serialized one chapter per month for a year, and each chapter ends with a cliffhanger that keeps kids anxiously awaiting the next installment.

The online novel is set in Maricopa County with a series of adventures, mysteries and cliffhangers at the end of each chapter. The mystery incorporates some local Phoenix history including information on the prehistoric Hohokam Indians that resided in the area. There are links to art and history museums for readers who want further information. The novel challenges readers to solve the mystery through puzzles, ciphers, and critical thinking while entertaining them at the same time. Activities are linked to each chapter, all of which combine to make a totally unique reading experience.

It's not just another story for kids. This is news. This is a first.

Two major things make this an extraordinarily innovative project. This is the first project of its kind of which we are aware and other colleagues throughout the

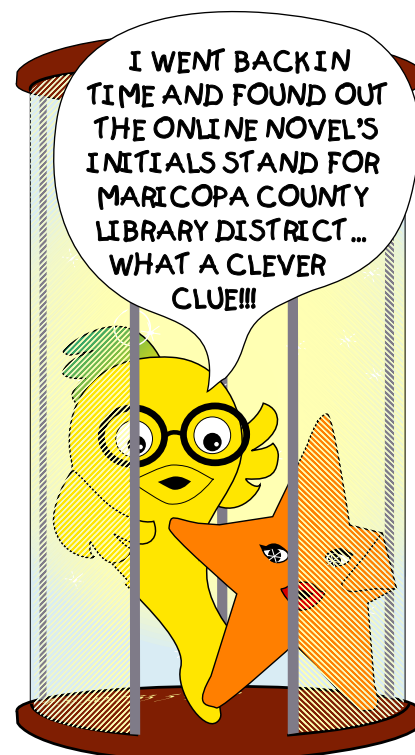
are going beyond the traditional content delivery function of the public library, to participating in the creative process itself. This project is also innovative in allowing us to look at our Web site as an actual delivery vehicle for programming rather than just a way to provide information about our programs.

"Our goal for the project is to get kids (3rd-7th grades) to read more and further develop their literacy skills-especially reluctant readers," commented Tim Wadham, the Children's Services Coordinator for the Maricopa County Library District. Wadham came up with the idea for the online novel. He wanted to find an appealing way to get kids to read more by incorporating computers-the very place kids spend time.

"We planned this project with the community in mind; specifically how we could not only impact the communities served directly by our 13 branches in Maricopa County, but also the statewide school community, plus libraries and schools nationwide. We worked with school library partners to make this project something that would be useful to teachers and school librarians, with practical classroom and curriculum applications. We also involved the press, TV, national education associations and library publications to gain their interest in the project and let others know about it."

The Online Novel was commissioned by the Maricopa County Library District and supported with funds granted by the

More than 20 schools in Maricopa County and schools in 12 other states and Canada are now linked to the Mystery Club Web site.



Gill and Starr try out the Mystery Club's Memory Machine.



The Library District Created Something New for Young Readers and a Great New Way to Get Kids to Read!

**The Library District's very own
mystery novel is a hit with kids
around the world!**

Our Readers Say It Best:

The reach of the Online Novel has gone beyond the Library District's own expectations. Sharing responses from the site's Kids Page is one of the best ways we know to report on the success of the project. The following are samples of some of the responses:

"We have just discovered *The Mystery Club of Luna Drive*, and our students love it! Several students are spending their recess in the library reading the Mystery Club! Keep up the good work."—**Library Media Specialist, Hillside Elementary in Ft. Lewis, Washington**

"Hi, I really enjoyed Chapter one! You are a great writer. I have read *The Very Real Ghost Book of Christina Rose*, and I loved it! I can't wait till the next chapter!"—**Mary Sue, 9 years old, from Kentucky.**

"I think it's great!"—**Oliver, 11 years old, from District of Columbia.**

"I have read a little of this book in computer class and when I get home I'm eager to read more and solve the mystery."—**Ellie, 10 years old, from Canada.**

"I really like the book. It is my favorite book. I can not wait till the next chapter because I like mystery books a lot. It is fun to solve secret codes. It's fun to read on the computer. I do not get to go on the computer a lot. I think that the author did a great job on the book so far."—**Caroline, 12 years old, from Arizona.**

"I can't wait for the next chapter!!!!!!!"—**Sierra, 10 years old, from Oregon.**

"This book is really exciting and scary. I like the way you put in the secret code. I think the secret code is really hard."—**Daisy, 9 years old, from Canada.**

"This book is a little good so far because I only read the first chapter and I hope this books get exciting and I'm gonna read the 2nd chapter now to see how exciting it gets!"—**Zhou, 14 years old from China.**

"I really llllllooooovvvveeeedd this book I thought it was really cool thanks 4 making such a good book."—**Samantha, 11 years old from New York.**



Author James M. Deem talks to online fans at the 2004 Arizona Book Festival.

"I really like the book. I can't wait till they come out with the next chapter. I just want to keep reading and reading."—**Ashlee, 11 years old, from Arizona.**

"I love how you put in a secret code (witch I have not yet cracked). It is so cool about the library and the house."—**Kyra, 10 years old, from Canada.**

"How did the envelopes get in their books?"—**Miranda, 10 years old, from California.**

"The secret code that you put in is great. The best part about it is we have think really hard to crack the code. I just about figured it out but I'm still working hard to figure the hole thing out."—**Ganasan, 10 years old, from Canada.**

"I LIKED THIS STORY BECAUSE IN MY EIGHTH GRADE CLASS I WAS THE ONLY ONE TO GET THE CODE RIGHT WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE NEXT CHAPTER."—**Tawana, 13 years old, from Arizona.**

"The book was great! I was already excited about if after the first page! I can't wait till the next chapter!"—**Justin, 11 years old, from Canada.**

"It is exciting very exciting I want to read more!"—**John, 8 years old, from Colorado.**

"The book is great! But I can't seem to crack the code. I hope the next chapter will come out fast!"—**Joseph, 10 years old, from British Columbia.**

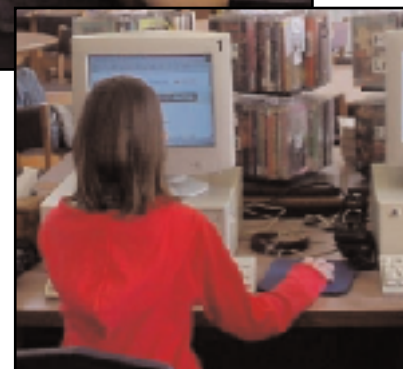
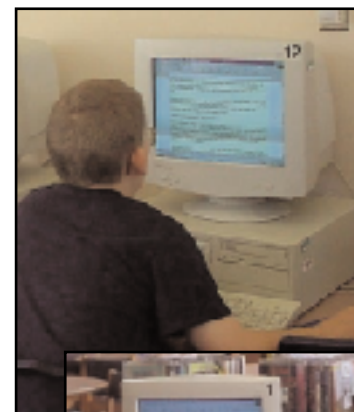
"I like this book very much! I like it because when you read it you can't stop."—**Avery, 10 years old, from Canada.**

"It was one of the best books I ever read!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"—**Nicole, 8 years old, from Arizona.**

"This book is really cool. But it is weird."—**Ryan, 9 years old from Mississippi.**

"I just looooooovvvvvvveeeeee this book! I think it is the greatest book I've ever read!"—**Veronica, 13 years old, Arizona.**

"This book is great so far and I finally solved the code it was soooooooo hard!!!!!!!!!! I can't wait for the next chapters to come out!!!!!!!!!!!"—**Aaron, 10 years old, from Canada.**





Exclusive Interview

Mystery Club of

Did you read mysteries as a kid? Which were your favorites?

Mystery novels turned me into a reader. I didn't like to read until third grade when I discovered mystery books. I was given one of the Hardy Boy books as a present. By the time I finished the first chapter, I was hooked on mysteries. And by the time I finished fourth grade, I had read every book in the series, along with every Nancy Drew book and any other mystery book I could get my hands on. By seventh grade I was reading Agatha Christie and other adult mystery writers.

As a reader, I wasn't really interested in solving the mystery ahead of time. I just enjoyed the process of reading a mystery, turning the pages, hoping to discover the surprises that the writer had planted for me.

Have you experienced any real-life mysteries?

I think everyone's life has unexplained events--those weird little things that occur occasionally. I get lots of letters from kids who wonder why the TV turned itself off or on, when no one was touching the remote control. Sometimes the event is a little more unsettling.

One of the strange things that happened to me took place about ten years ago. I was awakened around 4 a.m. by the noise (I was certain) of the Big Bird footstool in my kids' bathroom being dragged across the floor. I thought it was one of my children (it wasn't unusual to hear them in the middle of the night), so I kept listening.

But I didn't hear any more noises and that worried me: maybe someone was sick. So I went to check to make sure that my kids were okay. To my surprise, they were all sound asleep in bed. But what had made the noise I heard? I knew there wasn't a burglar, because the alarm hadn't gone off. Then I thought: Maybe it was a ghost. After all, I had written a few books about the subject; maybe it was my turn to be haunted.

So I walked through the house to check everything--and found nothing unusual. I went back to bed and fell asleep. In the morning I discovered that raccoons had gotten into the garbage cans next to the house; the garbage cans were stored right beneath my bedroom window. But at 4 a.m., when I had been awakened from a sound sleep, my ears thought that the noises were coming from the bathroom. This just shows that it's hard to tell what the truth is--even for adults!

Do you believe in ghosts?

As a child, I believed in ghosts. I had a hyperactive imagination, and I firmly believed in the possibility of ghosts. As a result, I spent most of my childhood being terrified that I would come face to face with one.

Every night I would do a ghost check. I would look under my bed, behind the door, and in my closet. I would have to shut my closet door tightly (without any help from my parents) because I wanted to make sure that it wouldn't pop open in the middle of the night.

And I never put my clothes on the desk chair at the foot of my bed, because they don't look like clothes on a desk chair in the middle of the night. I slept with the light on in my bedroom until fourth grade.

As an adult and a parent, I don't have enough time to believe in ghosts. Since becoming a published writer about 15 years ago, I have read thousands of ghost stories (that people said were true) in doing research for some of my books. If the real stories were true, none of them were scary, and almost all of them were pretty boring. I realized that ghosts (if they did exist) couldn't be scary at all.

And when I saw a ghost, about twenty years ago, I had the same experience: it wasn't scary at all. I saw the ghost in a castle in England, and it wasn't at all what I would have imagined as a child. The ghost I saw (if it really was a ghost) was a woman in a light blue dress. As I climbed the narrow and dark stone steps inside the castle keep, I noticed a woman walk by the top of the stairs. I was a little annoyed when I saw her, because I wanted to take a photo in the room at the top of the stairs and I didn't want a tourist blocking my photo. When I reached the top, though, I did not see the woman. I checked everywhere (there was only one way out and that was back down the stairs). So I decided that the woman in the blue dress had been a ghost.

Codes play an important part in the first chapter--how did you become interested in codes and ciphers?

I don't know how long ago I became interested in codes and ciphers, but I do remember realizing at an early age that they were important tools for keeping secrets. I wrote many journals when I was in high school, and almost all of them have parts that were written in code to confuse anyone who tried to pry! This was one of the features I used in what's turned out to be my most acclaimed book, *3 NBs of Julian Drew* (Houghton Mifflin, 1994). The narrator of this book keeps a journal which is partially written in code.

About ten years ago I published a book on treasure, called *How to Hunt Buried Treasure*. One section of the book concerned codes and ciphers, since many people have created codes to lead (or mislead) people to certain hidden treasures. I found the subject fascinating and decided to use it in this book, just for fun.

Why should adults read children's books?

Why do you write for children?

Writing for children is one of the best parts of my life. Many adults don't like to take kids seriously. "Oh, you're just a kid" is a common put-down. I take a different approach. Children are our future, and they need to be educated in all sorts of ways. One of the best ways to educate (and entertain) children is to write for them.

with James M. Deem Author of the *Luna Drive* Online Novel for Kids.

By writing for kids, I am also able to keep in touch with my own inner child. I had a very memorable childhood, and I am able to tap into it when I write for children. Times have changed dramatically since I was young, but kids are still interested in many of the same things I was.

Writing nonfiction for kids allows me to write the kinds of book I would have wanted to read as a child. I hate boring nonfiction books; nothing turns me off faster than a boring book. When I began to write nonfiction, I decided to approach it differently. I selected unusual topics (ghosts, UFOs, buried treasure, ESP, mummies, time travel, bog bodies). Then, I tried to write about what kids would find interesting--the same things I would have found interesting as a child; that is, all of the information my parents wouldn't have wanted me to know...all the mysterious, unusual, gross and gory stuff! Finally, I tried to teach kids to apply their powers of critical thinking to the topics.

Writing fiction for kids allowed me to take a completely different approach. When I read a novel, I like to suspend my disbelief; I like to believe that the characters are real people telling a real story. Unfortunately, I have found that many kids' novels sound as if an adult pretending to be a child is telling the story. One of my goals in writing fiction for kids is to make the reader believe that the story and the characters are real. My greatest sense of accomplishment in fiction writing has come when I hear from kids who email me to ask if a character is a real person. Hopefully, the characters in *The Mystery Club of Luna Drive* will seem real, too. To me, they are!

Why put a novel online?

How does this affect your writing, knowing that your work will appear on the web?

Putting a novel online is a true adventure. I have always liked doing things that are different and unusual, and this experience certainly falls into that category. I like reading traditional books, but I also enjoy the Internet and find it an exciting place to discover new information. The opportunity to create an online book allows me to experiment in my writing, by adding links and animations, by stepping outside the format of a traditional print book. I like the idea also that the book is free for all kids to read, thanks to the grant from the Arizona Department of Library, Archives and Public Records that funded this project.

What would you like adults and parents to know about *The Mystery Club of Luna Drive*?

I had a number of goals in mind as I wrote the book. First, I wanted the book to be a good read: fun and exciting and a little scary and even silly sometimes. More than that, I wanted it to be a book that kids would return to each month to find out what happened to the characters I created. For that reason, it couldn't just be light-hearted with no substance; the book had to feel real with real people as characters. That meant adding a serious side as well. Finally, I hope adults will read the book also. When I write, I don't choose my words or ideas for kids; I just write what I want. I follow what I hear in my head. I don't ever talk down to kids. I treat them as people--the way I would have wanted to be treated myself when I was young. For that reason, I hope the book appeals to anyone who likes to read a good mystery. I hope every one has a good time reading it.

What will kids like about *The Mystery Club of Luna Drive*?

I think kids will like the main characters: Luz, Dwight, and silent Max. I've tried to make them as real and as individual as I could. I've also tried to create a story that would be a little unusual and involve readers in many different ways. This isn't a one-story book; it has many facets and levels to it. I hope that when kids read it, the experience will feel a little like riding a great roller coaster--when the ride's over, they will want to come back for more.

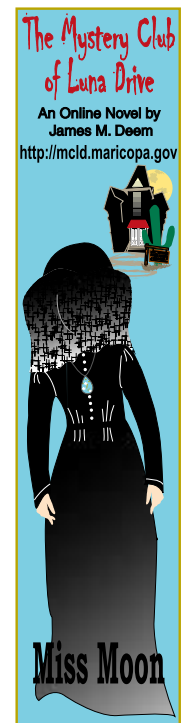
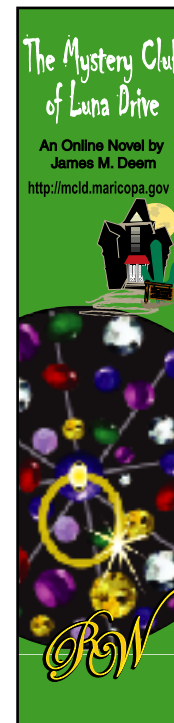
***The Mystery Club of Luna Drive* takes home the Highsmith Award and the NACo "Best in Category" Award!**
(see page 8)

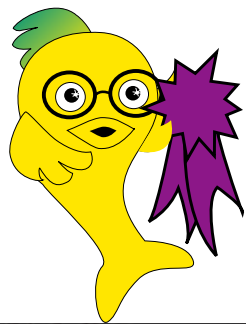
James M. Deem is the author of many award-winning books for children, including *Bodies from the Bog* (an American Library Association Notable Book for Children), *The Very Real Ghost Book of Christina Rose* (an Honor Book for the Washington Irving's Children Choice Book Award), and *3 NBs of Julian Drew* (an American Library Association Popular Paperback for Young Adults and a nominee for the Arizona Young Readers' Award).

Collector Bookmarks

Every chapter has its own bookmark with clues (written in secret code) giving hints about what might happen in the next chapter.

Kids can collect all twelve at any District Library.





Awards and Honors



The National Association of Counties' Achievement Award Program (NACo) is a noncompetitive program that recognizes counties for improving the management of and services provided by county government. This year Maricopa County Library District received four Achievement Awards.



for the online novel: *The Mystery Club of Luna Drive* won "Best of Category" in Libraries Category. The mystery novel for kids is a first! It is written as a serial with a new chapter each month appearing exclusively online on the Library District Web site <http://mclld.maricopa.gov>. It's also innovative because the Library was involved in the

creative process itself and used its Web site as a delivery vehicle for programming rather than just a way to provide information about programs.



for Life Options: The Library District developed a collection of material specifically for contemporary retirees or the soon-to-be-retired set who want to age successfully and be engaged in rewarding and productive activities. The Life Options Collection is designed to provide information on the subjects pertinent to this group as they explore the aspects of retirement.



for Teen Zine: The *Teen Zine* is a teen art and literary magazine by teens in the Maricopa County Library District. The teen publication is the result of an art/writing contest for teens sponsored by the Library District.



for SmartCard:

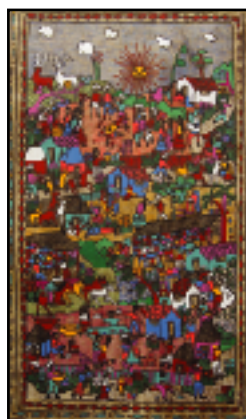
The Library District is one of the first library systems in the USA to use SmartCard technology to augment its customer self-service model. The "SmartCard" allows customers to pay

for printing and copying, save favorite Internet sites, and reserve time for using public access computers. Most importantly, the same card, which contains an encrypted token, can securely store monetary value and be used as the customer's library card. In the future the SmartCard will also be used to pay library fines and fees--and even be used at the vending machines conveniently located in several of our libraries.



The Mystery Club of Luna Drive also received **THE 2004 HIGHSMITH LIBRARY INNOVATION AWARD** which recognizes a public library's innovative and creative service program to the community.

LIBRARY DISTRICT RECEIVES HONOR OF HOSTING THE PRESTIGIOUS ARBUTHNOT LECTURE IN 2004



Mexican folk art contributed to the inspiration for Ursula K. Le Guin's Arbuthnot Lecture "Cheek by Jowl"

The Maricopa County Library District was selected to host the 2004 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture held this past April. Ursula K. Le Guin, the legendary author and distinguished writer of science fiction and fantasy for young people and adults, was chosen to deliver the lecture.

Each year, an individual of distinction in the field of Children's literature is chosen to write and deliver a lecture that will make a significant contribution to the world of children's literature. The award is administered by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA).

The Library District collaborated with the Arizona State Library and Arizona State University. The lecture was presented at the University's Paul V. Galvin Playhouse. The University also presented a symposium on Mrs. Le Guin's work in connection with the lecture.

Author Ursula K. Le Guin and Tim Wadham, Youth Services Coordinator for the Maricopa County Library District.



No time to read? Read in your car! (Well, sort of...)

By Paula Wilson,
Web/Outreach Services Coordinator
Maricopa County Library District

“**T**he average number of miles traveled by employees to work (one way) is approximately 20. It takes residents approximately 26.6 minutes to travel the distance to work. Compared to last year, employed residents travel greater distances and take longer to commute as well.” Employee Telecommuting Study, November 2002, WestGroup Research, Prepared for Regional Public Transportation Authority.

The Library District's collection of books on cassette and compact discs can make your daily commute more enjoyable. Whether you ride the transit, drive your car, ride a bike, or walk to work you can listen to books. Or, during a leisurely drive to your favorite Arizona destination. Choose from nonfiction titles and learn about finance, health, or biographies. Or, catch up on the Harry Potter series and other best-seller titles. The Library also loans music on CDs.

Finding an audiobook at the Library
From the Library home page click on search, type in *audiobooks*, search by genre, and sort by publication date. The results of the search will include a list of the most recently published audiobooks.

Destination	Roundtrip Miles	Suggested Reading
Sedona	234	<i>Meditation as Medicine</i> by Dharma Singh Khalsa, 3.9 hrs. Tips on how to maintain general physical and emotional well-being and help to alleviate a whole range of physical and emotional afflictions.
Tombstone	362	<i>Tombstone Courage</i> by J.A. Jance, 3 hrs. When a young widow named Joanna Brady runs for sheriff in Cochise County she gets involved in investigating a strange double homicide.
Grand Canyon	454	<i>Call of the Canyon</i> by Zane Grey, 8.5 hrs. Glen, a shell-shocked World War I veteran, and Carley, his New York love, are reunited against the backdrop of austere Arizona mountains.
The Painted Forest and the Petrified Forest National Park	490	<i>To America: Personal Reflections of An Historian</i> by Stephen E. Ambrose, 9.75 hrs. Unabridged. A collection of essays by the late Ambrose covering topics like the administration of U.S. Grant, Thomas Jefferson and slavery, the War in the Pacific, and Vietnam.

**the ULTIMATE
SEARCH ENGINE IS
@ your library[®] ...
it's your librarian.**

Librarians are professionally trained information experts who can put the world at your fingertips. In a world that is information rich, librarians are information smart and can help you find what you are looking for in print and online.

Web sites of Interest to Commuters

Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT)
Freeway Management System
<http://www.az511.com>

ADOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program
www.azbikeped.org

AZCentral.com News - Traffic
www.azcentral.com/news/traffic

The Telecommuting Zone
www.teleworkarizona.com

Valley Metro
www.valleymetro.org



Your Library is Just a Click Away

By Paula Wilson,
Web/Outreach Services Coordinator
Maricopa County Library District

Dilemma:

It's 10:30pm, Sunday evening. Your paper is due tomorrow and you haven't even started! Your assignment is to write a one-page essay on a person in a career of interest. Your teacher said it couldn't be a sports player or celebrity.

Old Way: The library is closed.

Result: Student gets an incomplete

Grade: Incomplete

Net Way: Google can help me find a biography of a photojournalist! Student finds over a million results.

Result: Student wastes lots of time researching with little time for writing paper.

Grade: C

New Way: I can login to the Biography Resource Center available from the Library Web site and create a custom search-by occupation, gender, ethnicity, nationality, place of birth and death, and more.

Result: Student locates unique information including images from authoritative sources. Teacher is very impressed.

Grade: A-Excellent

Biography Resource Center is one of many subscription databases the Library District offers for your use through the Library Web site. Customers with a Maricopa County Library District card and a 4-digit password may access these databases from any computer that is connected to the Internet. Customers can request a password from any Library District branch.

For a complete listing, select 'E-sources' from the Library's home page. If you need help using these databases you can email one of the Library District's library staff members for assistance or attend a class at your local branch library.

Check our monthly Events
Calendar for database classes!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an E-source?

An e-source is short for electronic sources of information. E-sources are informational databases containing thousands of full-text materials traditionally available in print. The information found in databases includes many topics and formats such as full-text magazine articles, newspaper articles, poems, biographies, business reports, and health information. The materials have been digitally scanned and stored for retrieval by keywords, subject, author, and title. Advanced searching capabilities allow researchers to add limits such as dates and full-text availability.

Isn't everything on the Internet, anyway?

No, it's not. Some materials are not available in their entirety, or require a paid subscription. Other materials, due to copyright constraints, are never published online. The Library District offers a rich and varied on-line database collection for free to its customers anytime of the day, from anywhere.

I use Google and other search engines to find information. Isn't that good enough?

Perhaps, but anyone can post a Web page to the Internet. Much like print publications, editors and publishers review the information stored in databases. In most cases, the editorial process guarantees the quality of the information. Using Google along with Library e-sources will further ensure you've uncovered the material you need. Learn to use both. Soon you'll know when it's best to use search engines and when to use e-sources.

What are the advantages of using the Library District's E-sources?

The Library's electronic resources organize, categorize, store, and provide easy access to copyrighted information normally not found free on the Internet through any search engine. Once retrieved, information can be downloaded to a disc, printed or sent via email. The Internet is a wonderful resource and a great convenience but it's far from perfect. Librarians have been collecting and organizing information for

centuries. They are really the "ultimate search engine." They can help you find the best source of information, whether it's online or in a book or pamphlet or video.

HOMEWORK HELP FOR STUDENTS

Biography Resource Center

Biographies provide a unique way of learning about the world, through the lives of people. Search by occupation, nationality, ethnicity, birth/Death Year, birth/Death Place, and gender.

General Reference Center Gold

Find articles from newspapers, reference books, and periodicals, many with full-text and images. Find the latest current events, popular culture, business and industry coverage, the arts and sciences, sports, hobbies, and more.

Literature Resource Center (LRC)

Attention all Lit students! Easily find biographies, bibliographies and critical analysis of authors and their writings. Advanced search capabilities allow you to search by author ethnicity, genre, time period, year of death, nationality, and theme. Next time your teacher asks you for a comparative literature piece, no sweat!

BUSINESS & PERSONAL FINANCE

Associations Unlimited

Contains more than 155,000 listings for organizations worldwide like the local Chamber of Commerce to the American Medical Association. Also provides IRS information on over 300,000 nonprofit organizations.

Business & Company Resource Center

Contains financials and earning estimates, investment reports, company histories, product information, rankings, market share data and industry overviews on domestic and international companies.

Morningstar

Identify stocks or mutual funds that meet your needs, create your own stock or fund screens, and read analyst reports. Input two or more stocks and/or mutual funds to see how they work together as a portfolio. Provides an online classroom for beginner investors.

Standard & Poor's

Investors can now browse and search these popular S&P's print publications online: Outlook, Industry Surveys, Stock Reports, Mutual Fund Reports, Earnings and Bond Guide, and the S&P Register and Corporation Records.

JUST FOR READERS**Essay, Poem and Story Finder**

Provides access to over 100,000 full text poems, thousands of full-text short stories including explanations, author biographies and pictures. Essay/Speech/Play provides full-text essays, speeches and plays that focus on the humanities and social sciences, and include biographies and literary criticism.

Novelist

A guide to fiction reading for all ages. Search by favorite author or series names, or use a favorite title to find similar books. Ability to search by reading levels, page range and publication year. Once you find your selections locate them in the Library's online catalog.

What Do I Read Next?

Includes over 100,000 recommended titles, more than 58,000 plot summaries, and awards information from 562 awards, all to help users uncover new reading adventures, find long-remembered favorites, and discover award-winning titles.

For a complete listing of informational databases visit our Web site today.
<http://mcl.d.maricopa.gov>

**HEALTH INFORMATION****Health & Wellness Resource Center**

Provides medical, health, and wellness information through a variety of magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, reference materials and Web sites. Includes a medical dictionary and encyclopedia, drug finder, and health organization directory.

Get a Five-Minute Reading Break Every Day in Your Email!

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"I love your book selections for this five-minute read."—L.L.

"I have been in the book club for a while now and I have read books that I normally wouldn't have picked up. You have opened up a whole new world for me. Thank you so much!"—Donna.

"Please know that I enjoy the convenience of a chapter-a-day. My husband and I choose one book a week and read it at breakfast. We have checked out several of the books you have chosen."—C.W.

"Just a quick thanks for your email book club service! It lets me get a 'taste' for the book before I check it out at the library...thanks for taking the time to make us all a little more literate!"—V. N.

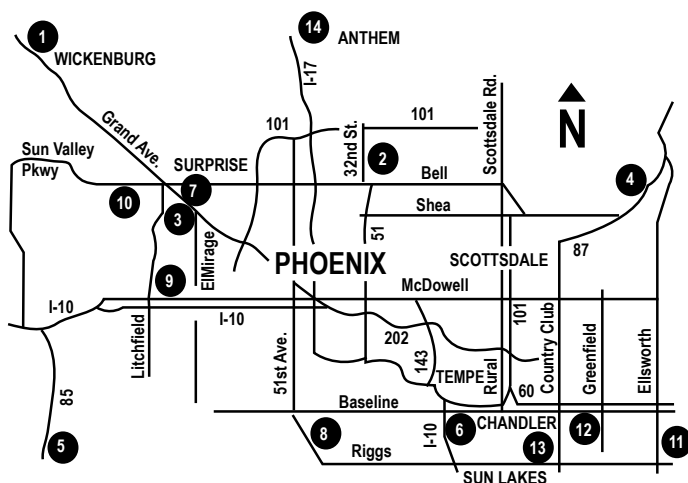
"Thank you for the books you choose for us to try. I just finished two of the selected books and I probably would never have picked either one of them off the shelf, but I thoroughly enjoyed both of them."—B.M.

"I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate having the 5 minute reads on line. I have found some good books that way. Keep it up."—J.H.

**GIVE THE GIFT OF READING ANYTIME!**

If you're reading at the Library's email Book Club, a gift suggestion is to share the joy of reading. Forward the daily emails for one of the book club's weekly selections to friends, relatives, or coworkers. Add the message: "Join me each week in rediscovering the joy of reading. It's free and you can read at more than one club. Join today and start taking a five-minute reading break every day."

**Web address: <http://mcl.d.maricopa.gov>
and click on Email Book Club**



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Aguila Branch
Temporarily closed
Bookmobile stops every
Wed. from 10:30am-2:30pm | 8. Laveen Branch
9401 S. 51st Ave, Laveen
602.237.2904 |
| 2. George L. Campbell Branch
17811 N. 32nd St., Phoenix
602.506.2957 | 9. Litchfield Park Branch
101 W. Wigwam Blvd.,
Litchfield Park
623.935.4118 |
| 3. El Mirage Branch
14011 N. 1st Ave.
623.583.1030 | 10. Northwest Regional
16089 N. Bullard, Surprise
623.544.6371 |
| 4. Fountain Hills Branch
12901 N. La Montana Dr.,
Fountain Hills
480.837.9793 | 11. Queen Creek Branch
22407 S. Ellsworth Rd.,
Queen Creek
480.987.3600 |
| 5. Gila Bend Branch
202 N. Euclid, Gila Bend
928.683.2061 | 12. Southeast Regional Library
775 N. Greenfield Rd., Gilbert
480.539.5100 |
| 6. Guadalupe Branch
9241 S. Avenida del Yaqui,
Guadalupe
480.831.5967 | 13. Sun Lakes Branch
9330 E. Riggs Rd., Sun Lakes
480.895.5123 |
| 7. Hollyhock Branch
15844 N. Hollyhock,
Surprise
623.583.0626 | 14. OPENING Fall 2004
North Valley Regional Library
40410 N. Gavilan Peak Parkway,
Anthem |

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Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

Brings library materials to remote schools, retirement homes, preschools & under-served communities. Provides Books-by-Mail for the homebound & the visually impaired.

Harry R. Courtright
DIRECTOR/COUNTY LIBRARIAN
MARICOPA COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT



The Maricopa County Library District's mission is to provide access to a wealth of information and recreational resources for people of all ages and backgrounds so that they may have the opportunity to expand their horizons through reading and learning.



Gill and Star, our of *fishal* Library Guides

The purpose of this newsletter is to bring you ideas, information, and tips so your time at your Library is easy, fun, and valuable.

Read On...Volume 4, Issue 1

Read On... brings you more behind the story @ your Library!™

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